

Overview

Why does Arizona need this new test?

In 2010, the Arizona State Board of Education adopted new standards in English language arts and mathematics for all students in Arizona. These academic standards outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. With the adoption and implementation of new standards, a new test is necessary.

How is this test different from the AIMS test?

Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) tested the old standards. Spring 2014 was the last time AIMS was administered for reading, writing, and mathematics.

The new English language arts and mathematics test, based on the new standards, will tell teachers, students, and parents if students are on track to be college and career ready upon graduation from high school.

The Arizona Science Standards did not change, so students in Grades 4, 8, and high school will still take the AIMS Science test.

High school students graduating after December 31, 2016 will no longer be required to pass the AIMS test to graduate high school.

Who will take this new test?

Arizona public school students in Grades 3 through high school will take the test.

Students in Grades 3 through 8 will take an assessment in English language arts and mathematics at their grade level.

Students taking high school level English and mathematics will take End-of-Course assessments that will test their proficiency in these subjects.

When will the test be given?

Students will take this new statewide test in the spring of 2015. A statewide testing window will be announced in the coming months, and schools will be able to select a range of testing dates within that window. Schools will inform students and parents of testing dates.

How will the test be administered?

The new statewide test will be computer-based. For schools that are not yet ready to administer a computer-based assessment, a paper-based version will be available.

Schools will have the ability to opt-in to the computer-based test if they feel they have the resources to successfully administer the test in this manner. The Arizona Department of Education will assist schools in evaluating their technical readiness for computer-based testing.

